2015 ARRL RTTY Roundup Results

In the middle of deepest, darkest winter, RTTY Roundup kept things lively.

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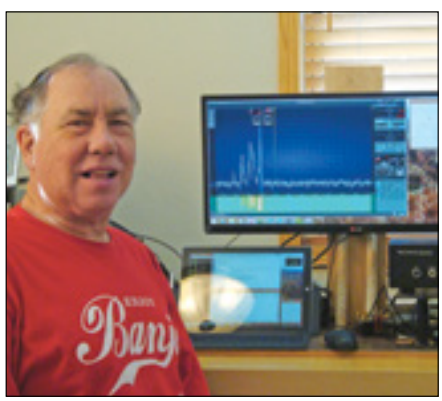
Everyone likes to talk about the weather. With hams it is doubly so, since we've got both solar weather and terrestrial weather to try to anticipate, and sometimes suffer through, as during the weekend of January 3 and 4. For many hams across North America, keeping antennas up and working put the focus on the terrestrial weather. While some dealt with snow drifts, icy buildup on antennas, and freezing rain, others out west might have secretly wished for some of that wet stuff to be deposited in depleted reservoirs.

2015 also saw a power shift — specifically, from high power to low power and even QRP, as shown in Table 1. While Unlimited entries remained almost perfectly flat, the Single Op, Low Power category showed the biggest increase with a corresponding decrease on the High Power side. With the further proliferation of top-quality QRP rigs — and the necessities of stealthier or portable operation — more ops are discovering that maybe life isn't too short for low-power RTTY after all.

Taking a peek at Table 2, it's also interesting to note that while overall participation rebounded this year compared with last year, the total number of logged QSOs was down, with the big 35% increase in 10 meter QSOs not enough to offset the drops on the other bands, especially 20 meters and 80 meters.



How cool to operate the Roundup from Roundup, Montana, the home of Keith, K7KAR. [Keith Regli, K7KAR, photo]

Affiliated Club Competition

In 2015, it would appear that most of the big clubs took the year off, at least compared with 2014. Neither the Northern California Contest Club nor the Potomac Valley Radio Club — both perennial contenders for the top Unlimited Club spot — managed to pull together the 50 logs required to make that category. Curiously, if PVRC had found just three more logs they would have made the cut and added an Unlimited gavel to their trophy case. Instead, they surrendered the Unlimited gavel to the Minnesota Wireless Association and took 1st place in the Medium Club category. In the Local Club category, the Orleans County ARC once again took the top spot.

New Records

Several records bit the dust this year, with three world records falling by the wayside. The high-water mark in SOHP was bumped up again by P49X (Ed, WØYK, op) to a massive 468,720 points. Even still, Ed noted in his soapbox that he feels "4000 QSOs and 500K points is achievable by a single op." I think we will see that soon!

As one might expect for categories that are only in their second year, many Single Op Unlimited (SOU) records tumbled. AA5AU crushed the world record set last year by N2QT with an impressive 280,704 points in SOULP. And KI1G obliterated VE7CC's world mark with 357,576 points in SOUHP.

For W/VE stations, 21 division and 75 section records were reset in 2015. And yet, there are still 42 section records still unclaimed! On the DX side, six new continental records were established — from the aforementioned P49X record in South America, all the way down to DU3/KL7IWC's new SOULP high mark of 2340 points in Oceania.

Data is Your Friend

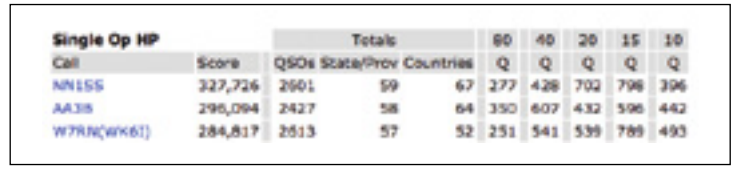
While a certain *Star Trek* android might be the perfect minion to help keep your station up and running for the duration of the contest,

Table 1
2013 versus 2014 Category Entries

Category	2014	2015
SOLP	843	921
SOULP	225	229
SOHP	331	296
SOUHP	254	258
MSLP	29	28
MSHP	40	48
Total entries	1722	1780

Table 2
Yearly QSO Totals by Band

Band	2013	2014	2015
80	79,226	76,006	67,015
40	161,081	131,653	125,537
20	200,106	169,502	145,994
15	174,985	175,681	160,868
10	42,671	70,580	95,436
Total QSOs	658,523	623,422	595,971



Single Op HP		Totals			80	40	20	15	10
Call	Score	QSOs	State/Prov	Countries	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q
NN1SS	327,726	2601	59	67	277	428	702	798	396
AA3B	295,094	2427	58	64	350	607	432	596	442
W7RN(WK6I)	284,817	2513	57	52	251	541	539	789	493

Figure 1 — Sample of claimed scores from **3830scores.com**, a post-contest reporting service created and maintained by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM.

Top Ten Scores — W/VE

Single Operator, Low Power

N9CK	192,120
NØAT	165,060
KØTI	161,117
KA4RRU	148,542
KØAD	134,805
VA2UP	130,624
NTØF	127,428
AD5XD	112,763
KC4HW	101,376
KD9MS	99,170

Single Operator, High Power

NN1SS	314,370
AA3B	292,863
W7RN (WK6I, op)	278,168
AC0C	232,764
K6LL	226,692
K8IA	226,395
K1RO	214,080
W7RY	210,041
AI9T	209,125
ABØRX	207,536

Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power

AA5AU	280,704
N2QT	204,229
WB5TUF	173,118
KB7Q (@WA7U)	170,362
N2MM	112,668
VE3KI	112,530
W3FIZ	107,576
AA2MF/4	87,451
AB4SF	83,930
W9ILY	83,895

Single Operator Unlimited, High Power

KI1G	357,576
W1SRD	269,568
WØLSD	253,150
VE7CC	222,300
K9OM	209,560
N1QD (@K1KP)	191,490
W3LL	190,336
W4PK	167,101
W7ZR	148,824
N3QE	140,774

Multioperator, Low Power

K9NR	128,810
AA8R	123,308
N4LR (@K9XD)	112,080
K7OX	72,261
W4DTB	69,112
KOØZ	62,604
KIØI	61,971
W4BNO	50,149
VA7RY	46,512
WØFRC	45,630

Multioperator, High Power

NR5M	272,718
NØNI	244,094
WØSD	234,720
WW4LL	202,752
N7TR	182,484
W4RM	164,052
W4ML	156,252
WY7SS	151,700
K6ND	148,562
KIØF	139,847

Top Ten Scores — DX

Single Operator, Low Power

WP3C	166,980
OQ6A (ON5MF, op)	94,464
F5BEG	94,328
TG9ANF	83,955
GWØA	75,558
EA4TD	67,907
UT5EPP	63,258
F6HRP	57,624
YV5AAX	53,156
EI3GRB	51,772

Single Operator, High Power

P49X (WØYK, op)	468,720
9A5W	155,154
EMØI (UT2IZ, op)	154,920
OL8M	147,160
UR7GO	138,564
LY6A	121,794
SQ9UM	114,608
DL3BQA	88,332
RW6CR	87,122
IK4GNI	70,266

Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power

YV1KK	128,594
VP9/K4KGG	111,333
IT9MUO	76,896
UZ2HZ	71,905
IW3RUA	65,184
IK3TPP	61,206
GMØFGI	55,348
UTØNN	54,960
DF2F (DF2SD, op)	52,650
S56A	51,300

Single Operator Unlimited, High Power

SN7Q	180,687
PZ5RA	138,820
PI4DX (PD1DX, op)	127,794
OH2HAN	122,250
IZ4AFW	100,656
LZ6K (LZ2PL, op)	94,550
EA5KA	92,463
S53M (S51FB, op)	88,638
OH2MZB	76,194
GW4BLE	74,336

Multioperator, Low Power

UX4E	39,263
OK2RVM	30,351
LU2EE	11,526
JM1NKT	9,776

Multioperator, High Power

EI7M	200,298
IT9BLB	185,900
OL7M	162,500
S53S	158,424
IQ1RY	137,940
SZ1A	125,874
EA2RCF	82,784
UT7E	71,568
SV3QUP	69,696
EA1AP	66,608

Affiliated Club Competition

Category	Entries	Score
Unlimited		
Minnesota Wireless Assn	56	1,891,478
Medium		
Potomac Valley Radio Club	47	2,406,791
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	27	1,520,271
Society of Midwest Contesters	31	1,435,965
Frankford Radio Club	18	1,222,264
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	25	1,130,695
Mother Lode DX/Contest Club	19	1,112,409
DFW Contest Group	17	869,528
Contest Club Ontario	25	840,857
Florida Contest Group	18	830,078
Alabama Contest Group	16	756,293
Northern California Contest Club	24	726,251
CTRI Contest Group	6	556,921
ORCA DX And Contest Club	10	547,242
Tennessee Contest Group	13	529,343
Louisiana Contest Club	6	442,580
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	8	425,686
Contest Group Du Quebec	7	421,180
Carolina DX Association	5	351,760
Western Washington DX Club	6	315,781
Willamette Valley DX Club	13	311,325
Mad River Radio Club	6	263,964
Southern California Contest Club	11	261,775
Mississippi Valley DX/Contest Club	3	258,266
South East Contest Club	8	236,859
Georgia Contest Group	3	224,876
Swamp Fox Contest Group	6	203,153
Kentucky Contest Group	5	170,451
Saskatchewan Contest Club	4	96,652
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	4	90,115
Maritime Contest Club	3	42,002
North Coast Contesters	3	38,800
Local		
Orleans County Amateur Radio Club	8	533,555
Kansas City Contest Club	4	266,103
Bergen ARA	6	245,726
Spokane DX Association	8	226,828
Skyview Radio Society	3	138,617
Bristol (TN) ARC	6	114,388
Metro DX Club	4	105,963
New Providence ARC	4	69,413
Meriden ARC	3	62,666
Murgas ARC	3	25,821
West Park Radiops	4	15,393

making good use of available data can make a key difference in meeting your personal contest goals, whatever they might be.

One source of data I use regularly is the 3830 website (**3830scores.com**, see Figure 1). Even though the scores posted are only claimed scores, they are still pretty close to the final score and can give you a picture of what other operators were able to achieve. For example, did you miss your goal of reaching a certain score? Take a look at the score breakdowns to see how other operators in your area and entry class achieved that score. Did they operate longer? Did they find more multipliers? Let's look at the top three US stations in Single Op, High Power: If AA3B had gotten a few more Qs per hour, or if W7RN had found more multipliers, the order of finish might have been very different. This suggests that perhaps AA3B needed to run more, or that W7RN should have gone multiplier-hunting a little more.

Also, don't miss the 3830 comments section. Sure, you will find a lot of complaints about equipment failures and lousy propagation, but there are also plenty of useful tidbits about local conditions, contest strategy, equipment choices and challenges, and the occasional bit of humor. In comments about the 2015 Roundup, you can read about the challenges of multiplier-hunting at P49X, how a new receive antenna improved things for N4LR, and the trials and tribulations of making exactly one contact at K6WSC.

For propagation data — unless you are really good at catching WWV at 18 minutes after the hour and in the middle of a contest run — a great website for comprehensive data is the propagation page at **dx.qsl.net/propagation**. You can find the usual indices, plus near-real time auroral and X-ray flux data. Wonder what just happened to the band? Check the X-ray flux. If that red line gets into the M or the (shudder) X range, maybe it's time to take your break.

Speaking of propagation, if you've ever seen those beautiful multi-colored propagation maps in this magazine and others and won-

New JA RTTY Bands!

The new year brought welcome news of the expansion of the Japanese RTTY subbands (see the table). Unfortunately, in a perverse twist of fate for the participants in this year's Roundup, the changes took effect immediately after the contest! So take good note of this chart for the 2016 RTTY Roundup, and any other DX RTTY contests in which you participate. You'll see that the subbands now constitute a pretty significant subset of the subbands available to W/VE ops, especially on 80 meters and 40 meters. (Thanks to Hisami Dejima, 7L4IOU, for the update!)

New JA RTTY Subbands (As of Jan 2015)

Band	RTTY Subband
160	1907.5 – 1912.5 kHz
80	3520 – 3575 kHz
40	7030 – 7100 kHz
30	10130 – 10150 kHz
20	14070 – 14150 kHz
17	18090 – 18120 kHz*
15	21070 – 21150 kHz
12	24910 – 24940 kHz**
10	28070 – 28200 kHz

*US upper limit is 18110 kHz.
**US upper limit is 24930 kHz.

Sponsored Plaque Winners

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of numerous clubs and individuals, we are pleased to list the winners of the sponsored RTTY Roundup plaques below:

Plaque Category	Plaque Sponsor	Winner
W/VE Single Operator High Power	Preston Radio Club, W7PRC	NN1SS
W/VE Single Operator Low Power	Ray Day, N6HE	N9CK
W/VE Single Operator Unlimited High Power	Tom Haavisto, VE3CX	KI1G
W/VE Single Operator Unlimited Low Power	Jeff Stai, WK6I	AA5AU
W/VE Multioperator High Power	John Lockhart, WØDC	NR5M
W/VE Multioperator Low Power	Dan Karg, KØTI	K9NR
DX Single Operator High Power	Rick Tavan, N6XI	P49X
DX Single Operator Low Power	Rich Cady, N1IXF	WP3C
DX Single Operator Unlimited High Power	Marsh Stewart, KA5M	SN7Q
DX Multioperator High Power	Paolo Cortese, I2UIY, Memorial by WØYK	EI7M
Hudson Division Single Operator Low Power	The New Providence ARC Digital Group	K2DSL
Midwest Division Single Operator Low Power	Sand Hills Amateur Radio Club of Southwest Kansas	NTØF
Pacific Division Single Operator High Power	Northern California Contest Club	W7RN (WK6I, op)
Pacific Division Single Operator Low Power	Dick Wilson, K6LRN, and Carolyn Wilson, K6TKD	AF6SA
Pacific Division Single Operator Unlimited High Power	Rich Hallman, N7TR	W1SRD
Pacific Division Multioperator High Power	Steve, W1SRD, and Doris, KØBEE	N7TR
Roanoke Division Single Operator Low Power	Mike Sims, K4GMH	KA4RRU
Roanoke Division Single Operator Unlimited High Power	Mark Sihlanick, N2QT	W4PK
Roanoke Division Multioperator Low Power	Sheila Blackley, K4WNW	W4DTB

To inquire about purchasing an unsponsored plaque, or for information on plaque sponsorship, please contact the ARRL Contest Branch at (860) 594-0232. Plaques cost $75 each, which includes all shipping and handling costs.

dered how to make them, look no further than **k6tu.net**. You don't have to know much about propagation to use the site, but there is plenty of tutorial material if you do. I never start a contest without generating a set of maps per band and loading them onto my iPad to study before and have handy during the contest. (Note that Stu does ask for a nominal yearly subscription to keep the servers running.)

Sure, poring over data might seem like drudgery, but try instead to think of it as inspiration. A few minutes of poking around just might lead to an idea to try next time. And who knows, during next year's Roundup on January 2 and 3, you might set a section record that stands for the next decade!

Receive All LTRS and FIGS Online

To see the complete list of records set — and make your record-setting plans for next year — check out the full results which are online at **www.arrl.org/contest-results-articles**.